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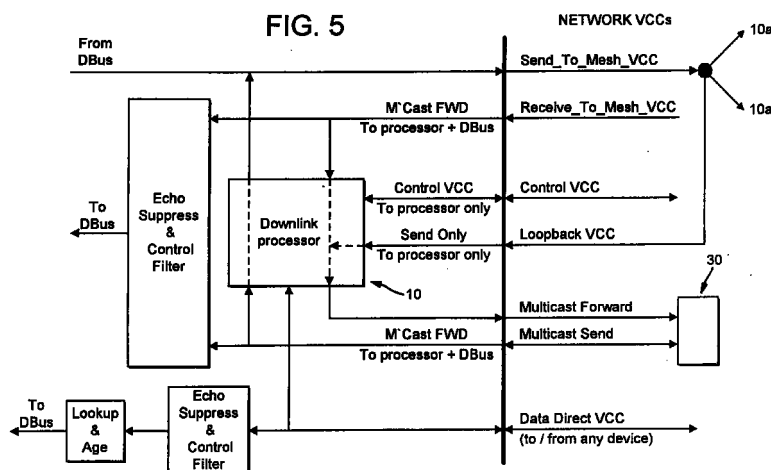
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(54) **A hybrid distributed broadcast and unknown server for emulated local area networks**

(57) A communication system comprises a plurality of interfaces disposed for sending data packets by way of virtual circuit connections and for receiving data packets by way of virtual circuit connections in an asynchronous transfer mode. The interfaces by means of said virtual circuit connections emulate at least one local area network including means for establishing a virtual circuit connection functioning as a BUS (broadcast and unknown server) for the broadcast of data packets throughout the emulated local area network. An

asynchronous transfer mode switch receives packets by way of virtual circuit connections from each of said said interfaces, replicates the packets and sends them to all the other interfaces, whereby to establish a mesh between said interfaces. At least one interface comprises means for mapping virtual circuit connections between said one interface and at least one terminal (30) which is not directly connectable in said mesh connection into virtual circuit connections in said mesh.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	BARNES J ET AL: "IP MULTICAST OF REAL-TIME MPEG OVER ATM" COMPUTER NETWORKS AND ISDN SYSTEMS,NL,NORTH HOLLAND PUBLISHING. AMSTERDAM, vol. 28, no. 14, page 1929-1936 XP000630953 ISSN: 0169-7552	1	H04Q11/04 H04L12/56
Y	* page 1934, right-hand column, line 31 - line 40 *	2,6	
A	* page 1935, left-hand column, line 40 - right-hand column, line 6 *	3-5,7-9	
Y	BERNABEI F ET AL: "TWO HEURISTICS FOR MULTICASTING IN ATM NETWORKS" GB,LONDON, CHAPMAN AND HALL, page 455-466 XP000702601 ISBN: 0-412-75970-5 * figure 1 * * page 457, line 3 - line 7 *	2,6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04Q
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		17 January 2000	Scalia, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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